

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the portions of the Specification identified below to read as indicated herein.

Paragraph starting at page 1, line 4:

~~EP-A-55742~~ EP-A-557542 discloses an optical attenuator for attenuating the intensity of a light beam emerging from an optical fiber. The attenuator comprises a wedge-shaped attenuator disk made of an absorbing material and a transparent disk that is also wedge-shaped and fixed to the absorbing disk. For adjusting different attenuations, the attenuator disk together with the transparent disk are rotated around an axis, whereby the thickness of the absorbing material through which the beam passes and thus the attenuation of the beam can be varied continuously. The problem with this solution is that the high local power consumption in the absorbing disk, which leads to heating and eventually destruction on the absorbing disk. Moreover, the attenuation shows a dependency on the wavelength.

Paragraph starting at page 1, line 24:

An adjustable attenuator for optical transmission systems is disclosed in ~~US-A-4,087,122~~ US-A-5,087,122 and comprises a blocker having a vane-like structure which is gradually rotated into a collimated beam to cause attenuation.